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Fulbright Panel Holds Secret CIA-NSA Inquiry

By Andrew J. Glass
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The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday began a secret inquiry into the covert penetration of the National Student Association by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The 3-hour unannounced committee session ran counter to a decision by the Senate leadership against conducting a special legislative investigation of the CIA's activities.

Members of the committee questioned:

- Philip Sherburne, 24, a past president of the NSA who in 1965 attempted to break the long-standing subsidy to the student group from the CIO.

- Michael J. Wood, 21, the NSA's former chief fund-raiser. After being fired by the student organization last year, Wood revealed the CIA ties to Ramparts magazine, thus triggering the exposure of a broad CIA network that funded private U.S. groups working abroad.

The two young men were questioned separately. Sherburne, now a first-year Harvard Law School student, said that he had appeared at the Committee's request. But he declined to divulge anything that was said before the Senate panel.

Fulbright Also Reticent

The student leaders have reported that, over a 14-year period, the CIA funnelled about \$4 million to the NSA. It also recruited former NSA members into the agency.

Foreign Relations Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) was equally reticent in refusing to tell reporters about the meeting. "It's none of your business," he said.

"I think it would be best not to talk," Sherburne said after the meeting. Then picking up his attache case and pulling tight his black raincoat, he walked out of the Capitol into the rainy night.

It was Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) who blew the cover after Fulbright told reporters that the Committee's discussion was secret.

One of the members, Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), said: "What I heard convinced me more and more that the CIA has to be drastically limited to spying... and that all of the extra-curricular activities should be taken away."

"The CIA certainly has to be brought under open surveillance by legislative committees of Congress," Morse added.

Fulbright serves as a member of a special Senate watchdog panel on the CIA. It was not known whether this group was informed in advance of the Foreign Relations Committee's inquiry.

Didn't Know About It

Both majority leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) and the Senate Republican leader, Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.), have publicly said that the CIA ought not be investigated in the Congress.

So furtive was the session with the two student leaders that at least one member of the Committee, Sen. Karl Mundt (R-S.D.), said he didn't even know that the secret hearing was taking place.

Mundt learned of the session when he entered the committee's chambers in the Capitol to pick up a dozen copies of the proposed consular treaty with the Soviet Union. He left a few minutes later, saying, "I have other things I'm interested in."

It was learned that the Foreign Relations Committee has also obtained a complete set of NSA financial records from its current President, Eugene Groves.

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